Electronoic Exchanges in Lucknow

1744. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old telephone exchanges in Lucknow converted into electronic exchanges so far and number of remaining old telephone exchanges, district-wise;

(b) the plans to convert the remaining old telephone exchanges into * electronic exchanges and by when the same are to be completed;

(c) whether Government plan to increase the capacity of telephone exchangs in Lucknow city; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VER-MA): (a) In Lucknow District eleven old telephone exchanges have been converted into Electronic exchanges so far. Two old exchanges arc yet to be converted.

(b) These old exchanges are planned to be converted into electronic exchnages during 1996-97 and 1997-98.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are given in the Statement.

Statement

Development plan for Lucknow City

SI.No.	Name of Exchange	Net capacity by which to be increased during 1996-97 & 1997-98.
1	Alambagh	2000 Line (8k-10k)
2	Rajajipuram	2000 Lines (3k-5k)
3	T.P. Nagar	1000 Lines (3k-4k)
4	Kaiserbagh	2000 Lines (7k-9k)
5	Bhadewan	2000 Lines (6k-8k)
6	J.inkiporam	1000 Lines (lk-2k)
7	Indira Nagar	2000 Lines (2k-4k)
8	Mahanagar	1000 Lines (13k-
9	Gomti Nagar	5000 Lines (5k-10k)

Improving Postal Facilities in Rural Areas

1745. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-NA1K: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme to improve the postal facilities in the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details of programme drawn up by Government for Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the State-wise target fixed for the financial year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VER-MA): (a) Out of a total network of 1,52,792 Post Offices in the country, 1,36,082 Post Offices are functioning in the rural areas which constitute 89% of the total Post Offices in the country. Augmentation and improvement of postal facilities is a continuous process. Post Offices are opened progressively under Annua] Plan Schemes subject to fulfilment of norms, availability of resources and allocations of the targets.

(b) During the 8th Five Year Plan, so far 1312 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices have been sanctioned in rural areas. Besides, 497 Panchayat Sanchar Seva Kendras have also been opened to provide basic postal facilities at Gram Panchayat Villages which do not have Post Office facility at present.

Plan target & achievement for opening of Post Offices under 8th Five Year Plan are as follows:—

Year	Target		Achievements	
	EDBOs	DSOs	EDBOs	DSOs
1992-93	600	100	635	116
1993-94	600	100	667	115
1994-95	80	150	4	31
1995-96	80	150	4	53
1996-97	80	150	2 (Till date)	20
Total:	1440	650	1312	335

EDSOs: Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices. DSOs: Departmental Sub-Post Offices.

(c) The Postal Circle-wise targets fixed for opening new Post Offices in rural ureas in the financial year 1996-97 are given in statement.

Statement

Postal circle-wise targets fixed for opening new post offices in rural area in the financial year 1996-97

s. No	Name of the Circle	Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Assam	2
3.	Bihar	10
4.	Delhi	1
5.	Gujarat	5
6.	Haryana	4
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
9.	Karnataka	2
10.	Kerala	1
11.	Madhya Pradesh	9
12.	Maharashtra	9
13.	North-East	2
14.	Orissa	4
15.	Punjab	2
16.	Rajasthan	5
17.	Tamil Nadu	2
18.	Uttar Pradesh	12
19.	West Bengal	2
	Total	80

Note: Postal Circle of North-East Comprises the States of Mcghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. Similarly Goa, forms part of Maharashtra Postal Circle and the State of Sikkim forms of West Bengal Circle.

The following Union Territories are covered by the postal 'circle mentioned against each of them:—

Andaman & Nkobar : West Bengal Circle
Chandigarh : Punjab Circle
Dadra A Nagar Haveli: Gujarat Circle
Daman & Diu : -do-
Lakshdweep : Kerala Circle
Pondicherry : Tamil Nadu Circle.

Recommendations of Dr. Alagh Committee on release of Cauvery Water

1746. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient recommendations of the Dr. Alagh Committee appointed by the Prime Minister on release of Cauvery water;

(b) whether Government have discussed the recommendations with the Chief Minister of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The main recommendations of the Expert Group were:

(i) Keeping in view, the shortage of water in both States, Karnataka must ensure availability of 11.4 TMC of water as due to Tamil Nadu from January to May 1996.

(ii) However, to mitigate the problem of shortage in Tamil Nadu particularly in the months of January, February and March when the demand will be at peak, the availability during these months may be augmented so as to enhance availability at Mettur Dam of an additional 2.5 TMC which may be adjusted from the releases due in April and May. The timing of such releases is very critical.

(b) and (c) The above recommendations were conveyed to the Chief Minis-ters of the Cauvery Basin States namely: Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and UT of Pondicherry on 2.2.96 by the then Prime Minister. The recommendations pertained to the period ending May, 1996. At this state no action is required.